

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

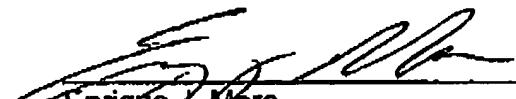
Applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts in trying to conduct a thorough and concise examination. Applicant further appreciates recognition of allowable subject matter in Claims 9 and 10. Claims 1-8 and 11-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gong et al. (US PUB 2004/0098220). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and objections in view of the following remarks.

Concurrently with this response, applicant is filing a Petition to Claim Benefit of a Prior Co-Pending Non-Provisional Application. Namely, a petition to claim benefit from the Gong reference, which was co-pending with the present application when filed on December 31, 2003 and with which shares at least one inventor in common. The specification has been amended to reflect this priority claim. Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that Gong is no longer an appropriate reference for anticipating claims 1-8 and 11-30 in the present application and the rejections and objections should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims pending in this application recites patentable subject matter and it is further submitted that such claims comply with all statutory requirements and thus each of such claims should be allowed.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspects of this Reply/Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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